

IN THE CLAIMS

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A grasper for grasping a refuse receptacle, the grasper comprising:

a support;

a first gripper arm pivotally carried by the support;

a second gripper arm pivotally carried by the support, the first and second gripper arms being pivotable between a first position in which the first and gripper arm is spaced apart from the second gripper arm arms extend generally away from each other and a second, low profile position generally adjacent the support in which the first and second gripper arms extend generally toward one another, the first arm defining an arm-receiving region between portions of the first arm for receiving the second arm when in the second position, the gripper arms being generally adjacent the support in the second position; and

an actuator for moving the gripper arms between the first and second positions.

15. (Previously Presented) The grasper of claim 14 wherein the second gripper arm nests in the first gripper arm when the gripper arms are in the second position.

16. (Previously Presented) The grasper of claim 14 wherein the first gripper arm includes a pair of spaced-apart arm

members with an elongated opening therebetween defining the arm-receiving region, the opening being sized to receive the second gripper arm when the gripper arms are in the second position.

17. (Previously Presented) The grasper of claim 14 wherein each gripper arm includes a fixed end secured to a respective pivot and a free end opposed to the fixed end, the gripper arms being sized in length so that the free ends extend laterally beyond the support when in the second position.

18. (Previously Presented) The grasper of claim 17 wherein each gripper arm has a generally linear portion extending from the fixed end, which linear portions extends generally parallel to the support in the second position, and an angled portion at the free end that is located behind a plane defined by the support when in the second position.

19. (Previously Presented) The grasper of claim 14 wherein the actuator comprises a hydraulic actuator.

20. (Previously Presented) The grasper of claim 14 wherein the actuator comprises a hydraulic cylinder.

21. (Previously Presented) The grasper of claim 14 wherein the arm receiving region comprises an elongated recess defined in the first arm for receiving the second arm in the second position.

22. (Currently Amended) A refuse receptacle lifter for mounting to a refuse container or vehicle, the lifter comprising:

a base;

a rotary hydraulic actuator carried by the base and having a rotating output shaft;

a support structure;

a lift arm having one end attached to the output shaft and another end attached to the support structure;

a follower arm having one end attached to the base and another end attached to the support structure;

a first gripper arm including first and second gripper arm members, each of which is pivotally mounted at one end to the support structure and terminates in a free end, the first and second gripper arm members being generally aligned and in spaced relation and adapted to move in unison generally about a first axis;

a second gripper arm pivotally mounted to the support structure for movement about a second axis, the first and second gripper arms being moveable between a first position in which the first and second gripper arms ~~are spaced apart~~ extend generally away from each other and second, low profile, storage position generally adjacent the support in which the first and

second gripper arms extend generally toward one another, with the second gripper arm located between the gripper arm members of the first gripper arm for storage.